

SENATE, January 10, 1865 —Read first and second times and referred to Committee on the Judiciary. January 14, 1865.—Reported without amendment, and ordered to be printed.

[Mr. WALKER, by leave.

A BILL

To secure, more effectually, the preservation and distribution of the effects of deceased officers and soldiers

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,*
2 That whenever any person claiming to be an agent of any one
3 of the Confederate States, duly empowered by such State to
4 attend to the collection, preservation and proper distribution of
5 the effects of officers or soldiers from such State, who have
6 died or may hereafter die, while in the service of the Confed-
7 erate States, shall show, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of
8 War, that he is the legally appointed agent of such State, hav-
9 ing the powers and subject to the duties above mentioned, it
10 shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to issue an order re-
11 quiring all quartermasters, surgeons or other officers, civil or
12 military, of the Confederate States, or any person, other than
13 the legal representatives of the deceased officer or soldier, hav-
14 ing charge or possession, or whose duty it shall be to take charge
15 or possession of the effects or any part thereof, of such de-
16 ceased officer or soldier, or in case such effects have been sold,
17 of the proceeds of the sale of such effects, to deliver or satisfac-

18 torily account for such effects or proceeds to such agent; to the
19 end that such effects or proceeds may be promptly delivered by
20 such agent to the persons legally entitled thereto: *Provided*,
21 however, that this Act shall not be construed to apply to such
22 military clothing as under the regulations of the War Depart-
23 ment is or may be required to be appraised and re-issued

1 SEC. 2. Upon the exhibition of such order from the Secretary
2 of War and the demand of such agent, it shall be the duty of
3 any quartermaster, surgeon or other officer having charge or
4 possession, or whose duty it is or may be to take charge or pos-
5 session of the effects or proceeds referred to in the first sec-
6 tion of this Act, forthwith to deliver or account for the same
7 to such agent, who is hereby authorized to cause strict investi-
8 gation to be made in reference to the receipt, possession or
9 disposition, by any officer or person, of the effects or the pro-
10 ceeds thereof, of any deceased officer or soldier from the State
11 represented by such agent, and to demand of any officer or per-
12 son having charge or possession, or whose duty it may be to
13 take charge or possession of such effects or proceeds, a written
14 statement or inventory of the same, clearly setting forth the
15 specific article, amount and kind of money, watches, jewelry,
16 side-arms, papers, notes or other effects of such deceased offi-
17 cer or soldier, that may have come to the knowledge, possession
18 or control of such officer or person. And any officer of the
19 army who shall fail or refuse to deliver to such agent, under

20 the order of the Secretary of War, such effects, or the pro-
21 ceeds thereof, of any such deceased soldier or officer, as may be
22 in his possession or under his control—or who shall fail or re-
23 fuse satisfactorily to account to such agent for all such effects
24 or proceeds thereof as it may have been his duty to take
25 charge or possession of paying to such agent the full value of
26 all such effects or proceeds as may have been lost or destroyed
27 by the neglect of said officer—or who shall fail or refuse to de-
28 liver to such agent on demand, the written statement or inven-
29 tory, above mentioned, shall, on conviction by court martial, be
30 deprived of his commission and put in the ranks as a private
31 soldier.

1 SEC. 3. Any Quartermaster, Surgeon, or other officer, who may
2 deliver or account for the effects, or the proceeds thereof, of any
3 deceased officer or soldier, to the agent of any State, under
4 the provisions of this Act, shall take from such agent duplicate
5 receipts, one of which shall be forwarded to the 2d Auditor of
6 the Treasury, who shall record and preserve the same; and
7 the delivery of such effects or proceeds, in pursuance of this
8 Act, to said agent, shall exonerate the officer making the same,
9 and the government of the Confederate States, from all liabil-
10 ity therefor.

1 SEC. 4. This Act shall not be construed to affect or disturb ex-
2 isting or future regulations relating to the charge, preservation
3 or disposition of the effects of deceased officers or soldiers, ex-

4 cept in so far as the authority of the agent of a State, under
5 order of the Secretary of War, to demand and receive, and the
6 duty of all officers or other persons to deliver to such agent
7 such effects or the proceeds thereof, as hereinbefore provided,
8 may be consistent with such regulations; and all Quarter
9 masters, Surgeons or other officers or persons who are, or
10 may be required by such regulations to take charge of the ef-
11 fects of deceased officers or soldiers, shall continue to do so in
12 accordance with said regulations, except so far as the same may
13 conflict with the provisions of this Act; and are not required
14 to account for or to deliver such effects or the proceeds thereof
15 to the agent above referred to, until the same shall be specially
16 demanded by him, under order of the Secretary of War, as
17 hereinbefore provided.